

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 RSR-01 /104 W

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R 140523Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5620

INFO USSAG NKP

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PINS, TH

SUBJ: U.S. PRESENCE IN THAILAND

THE AUGUST 14 BANGKOK POST CARRIED THE FOLLOWING
AP ARTICLE DATELINED WASHINGTON. "US PLANES TO REMAIN HERE.

"THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE ITS TIME REDUCING MASSIVE
AMERICAN AIR POWER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AFTER ALL BOMBING
IN CAMBODIA ENDS AT MIDNIGHT TODAY (MIDDAY TOMORROW
BANGKOK TIME). SOME US WAR PLANES, INCLUDING B52
HEAVY BOMBERS, WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND INDEFINITELY
AS A DETERRENT TO POSSIBLE NEW NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE
THRUSTS.

"US DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAY A CONTINUED
AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND IS
JUSTIFIED UNDER THE NEARLY TWO-DECADE-OLD SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY.

"ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANNING, OFFICIALS SAY,
THE UNITED STATES WILL START PULLING OUT SOME OF ITS
660 PLANES AND 45,000 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN ABOUT A
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MONTH AFTER THE BOMBING HALT. ABOUT 430 OF THESE PLANES

ARE BOMBERS. THE REST INCLUDE RECONNAISANCE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE CRAFT, TANKERS, TRANSPORTS AND HELICOPTERS.

"THE UNWINDING PROCESS WILL EXTEND OVER A PERIOD OF MANY MONTHS, WITH MOST OF THE PLANES AND MEN RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES AND SOME TO OTHER BASES IN THE PACIFIC AREA.

" THE UNITED STATES PROBABLY WILL GIVE UP MOST OF THE SEVEN BASES IT USES IN THAILAND BUT WILL HOLD ON TO THE 90 MILLION DOLLAR COMPLEX, INCLUDING A B52 FIELD AND A MAJOR NAVAL PORT, IT BUILT AT SATTAHIP IN THE GULF OF THAILAND. THE AMERICANS ALSO ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN NAKHON PHANOM, A BASE IN NORTHEAST THAILAND FROM WHICH US EFFORTS TO LOCATE MISSING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN ARE CONDUCTED."

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